

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 TRSE-00 AID-05 SSO-00
NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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DRAFTED BY ARA:CWBRAV:ARA/ECA:RCGRAHAM:FBL
APPROVED BY ARA:TATODMAN
ARA/ECA:RWZIMMERMAN
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 025338

FOR AMB. SIRACUSA FROM ASST. SECRETARY-DESIGNATE TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PINS, PINR, SHUM, UY

SUBJECT:URUGUAYAN RELATIONS - MESSAGE FOR OAS SEC GEN ORFILA

REF: A) MVD 395; B) MVD 341; C) STATE 15150; D) STATE
20330

1. YOUR ASSESSMENT OF URUGUAY AND OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS,
AS PROVIDED IN THE OVERVIEW AND OTHER RECENT MESSAGES
IS APPRECIATED AND TIMELY. AS YOU POINT OUT, THE
UNITED STATES HAS NO VITAL STRATEGIC OR ECONOMIC INTERESTS
IN THAT COUNTRY. HOWEVER, OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES LIKE
HUMAN RIGHTS PERMITTING, WE WOULD OBVIOUSLY PREFER TO
HAVE MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY RELATIONS.

2. WE HAVE NOTED YOUR SUGGESTION THAT SEC GEN ORFILA
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MIGHT SERVE AS AN INDEPENDENT CHANNEL ON THE HUMAN
RIGHTS QUESTION, AND AGREE THAT HIS PRESENCE AT THE
CIEC MEETING MIGHT BE OPPORTUNE. HOWEVER, BEFORE
RAISING THE SUBJECT WITH ORFILA, YOU SHOULD CONSULT
WITH BOB WHITE ABOUT THE FEASIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY
OF SUCH AN APPROACH.

3. PROVIDED YOU AND WHITE ARE IN AGREEMENT, YOU SHOULD ORALLY CONVEY TO ORFILA THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS FROM ME:

A) THE USG WISHES TO HAVE MUTUALLY USEFUL RELATIONS WITH URUGUAY, AS WE HAVE HAD OVER MANY YEARS.

B) WE ARE PREPARED, WITHIN LIMITS OF THE LAW, TO ATTEMPT TO RECIPROCATATE ANY STEPS WHICH URUGUAY MIGHT TAKE TO THIS END. I NEED NOT TELL YOU OF THE BROAD CONCERN THAT EXISTS OVER HUMAN RIGHTS WITHIN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND THE U.S. PUBLIC. YOU WILL CERTAINLY HAVE NOTICED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED ITS VIEWS ON PROMINENT SOVIET, CZECHOSLOVAKIAN AND CUBAN CITIZENS WHO HAVE SUFFERED PERSECUTION IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE SECRETARY, IN HIS SENATE CONFIRMATION HEARINGS, REFERRED TO THE IMPRISONMENT OF HUBER MATOS IN CUBA: "...THE RELEASE OF MR. MATOS WOULD HELP THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA. THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT HOLDS A NUMBER OF OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS INCLUDING SOME AMERICAN CITIZENS. THE RELEASE OF THESE POLITICAL PRISONERS AS A GESTURE OF GOODWILL AND AS A HUMANITARIAN ACT WOULD BE ONE INDICATION THAT CUBA IS SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN STARTING A DIALOGUE WITH THE UNITED STATES."

C) FORWARD PROGRESS IN OUR RELATIONS WILL BE PRINCIPALLY DETERMINED BY STEPS THE GOU TAKES, OR DOES NOT TAKE, IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD AND IN RETURNING TO THE RULE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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LAW. WE RECOGNIZE THAT CRITICISM OF THE GOU IN THIS MATTER HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN ACCURATE. WHETHER THE GOU WISHES TO INVITE AN INTERNATIONAL REVIEW BY A BODY LIKE THE IAMRC IS A MATTER FOR THAT GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, ANY INTERNATIONAL REVIEW WOULD SEEM TO HAVE ADVANTAGES.

D. IF YOU FEEL IT APPROPRIATE, I WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO YOUR CONVEYING THESE POINTS PRIVATELY TO THOSE SENIOR URUGUAYAN OFFICIALS TO WHOM YOU WILL BE TALKING, BUT MUST OBVIOUSLY LEAVE THIS ENTIRELY TO YOUR JUDGMENT.

E) I WOULD WELCOME AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS AND OTHER MATTERS WHEN YOU RETURN TO WASHINGTON.
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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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